



Northeast Nature Notes

An Update from the Northeast Regional Office, July-September 2012

My favorite summertime memories come from the days we spent at the river. All the kids would pile into the back of someone's pickup truck and we'd head for our favorite swimming hole. A stop at the small-town gas station on the way led to a chorus of singing soda bottles as we tilted the open tops in the wind, competing for loudest and longest notes.

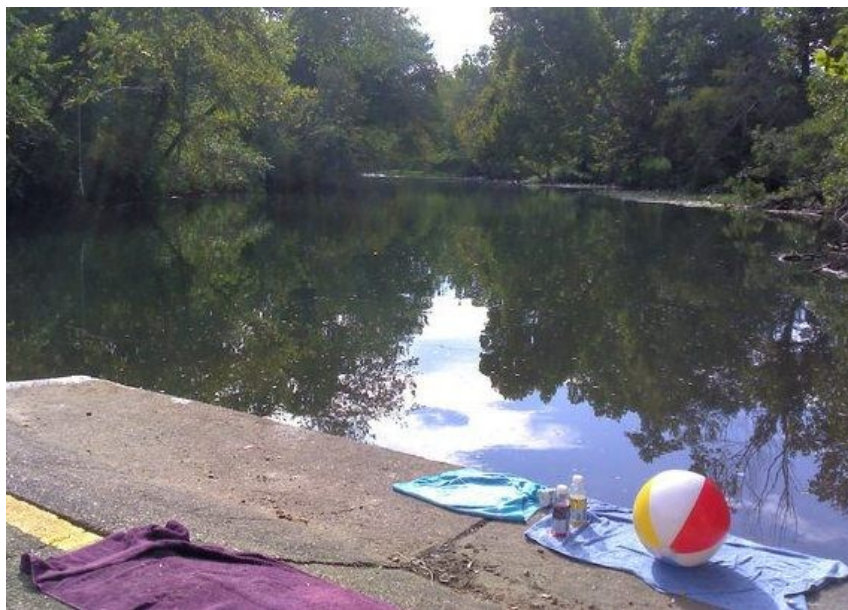
Our swimming hole was a spot on the Little Black in southeast Missouri. A concrete bridge crossed the river, but was rarely used by vehicles. The cool water gradually deepened from inches to feet on the upstream side of the bridge, giving space for little ones to hunt for shells and watch minnows dart while older kids swam out to the deep spot or swung on the rope swing. The culverts through the bridge provided a quick water slide for those willing to risk a few scrapes or a brush with a cottonmouth (not me!).

The downstream side of the bridge provided other types of aquatic entertainment. Fishing wasn't nearly as popular as swimming, but there would always be one or two people giving it a try. Crawdads abounded in the muddy pools at the edges of the river—the largest I ever saw there was nearly as big as a lobster! There was always something new and interesting to be seen.

It's very important to me as a parent to help my children understand their intimate connection with nature. I draw on my childhood memories as a tool, a map showing me one path to that connection. I can't (and don't want to) recreate my memories—the swimming hole is grown full of weeds and occupied by ducks now, anyway. What I can do is take my kids to the kinds of places I loved and let them explore. In time, they will blaze their own path.

Think back to your childhood summers. What memories do you cherish the most? Which ones helped you find your connection? What's on your map?

Amanda Moore



The newsletter is now available online at mdc.mo.gov/node/17875. You can switch to the electronic version by calling 660-785-2420 or by e-mailing Amanda Moore at amanda.moore@mdc.mo.gov.

Missouri Department of Conservation
Northeast Regional Office
3500 S. Baltimore
Kirkville, MO 63501
660-785-2420
Office hours:
8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Monday through Friday



NATURALIST PROGRAMS

Connecting kids and nature

Knee High Naturalists

Recommended for ages 3-5, 10:30-11:30 a.m.

August 6: Stink, Stank, Skunk!

Where does a skunk call home? Does it have a favorite meal? And why in the world does it raise such a stink? Discover skunks with us at this program!

August 20: Raptor Review

If a raptor is a bird that eats meat, why don't we call a robin a raptor? Join us as we investigate and find out which Missouri birds are raptors.

September 17: Roly-poly Roundup

Crawling under rocks, hiding under logs, maybe even in your basement—anywhere that's dark and damp makes a wonderful home for the roly-poly! We'll hunt out their hiding spots and take a close-up look at these land loving crustaceans.

Creature Feature

Recommended for ages 6-12, 1:00-2:00 p.m.

August 8: Pollination Investigation

Have you ever wondered why flowers come in so many shapes and colors? Investigate the answer as we explore the connection between flowers and their pollinators.

August 22: Mudbug Mania

Whether you call them mudbugs, crawdads, or crayfish, these critters fascinate us! Come along as we discover the underwater life of these crustaceans.

September 5: Backyard Birds

Spring and fall migrations bring us the chance to see a bigger variety of birds than at any other time of year. Learn the basics of backyard birding at this program.

September 26: The Humble Bumble

Did you know that honeybees aren't the only bees that make honey? Bumblebees make it too! If you want to know more about our native bumblebee, visit us for this program.

Conservation Keepers

Recommended for families, 2:00-3:00 p.m.

August 25: Picture Quest

Bring your camera for our digital scavenger hunt! We'll give you a list of natural items, and you'll take pictures of what you find. Bring along an SD card or a USB cable for your camera, and we'll share the results on the big screen.

September 22: Camping 101

Not sure how to set up a tent? Building a campfire frustrate you? Tired of hot dogs over the fire? Get tips and techniques, learn some easy campfire recipes, and even practice setting up your tent with us at Camping 101!

What Is It?

Check the Kid's Corner to find the answer!



SPECIAL EVENTS

Hot events for the summer!

Ladies Night Out @ The Range

July 16, 6:00-9:00 PM, Salt River Gun Range

Ladies ages 14 and up, we have an event planned for you! Spend an evening at the Salt River Gun Range where we will offer courses on shotguns, rifles, and handguns. You'll get plenty of shooting practice during the courses, and we'll provide the firearms. We only have space for 30, so register soon!

Those ages 14 through 17 must be accompanied by an adult. Please bring a hat, water bottle, and sack dinner. No open-toed sandals. Remember to dress for the weather.

This workshop is free, but **registration is required**. Call 573-248-2530 to register.

Catfish Camp

August 25 & 26, Ted Shanks & DuPont Reservation CA

Join the Missouri Department of Conservation for an exciting catfishing experience on the Mississippi! We'll begin at 1 PM Saturday at Ted Shanks with catfish biology, regulations, and fishing tips and techniques. Saturday evening we'll be on the river setting lines and Sunday morning we'll check our lines. Camping and pole fishing will also be available Saturday evening.

This event is free and open to all ages, but those under 16 years of age need to be accompanied by an adult. **Registration is required.**

To register, or for more information, please contact Rob Garver at 660-785-2420 or e-mail rob.garver@mdc.mo.gov

Youth Dove Hunt

August 31 & September 1

This program includes both a clinic and a hunt. The clinic will be held on August 31 from 5:30 to 7:30 PM. The hunt will take place at the Rose Pond Conservation Area from sunrise until 1 PM on September 1. The clinic includes information on dove management, regulations, hunting strategies, safety, and distance judging. We will also offer wing shooting practice. Only those who participate in the clinic will be eligible to attend the hunt.

This event is open to children ages 11 through 15 who have Hunter Education Certification. There are only 30 spaces available and **registration is required by August 27**. You can register by calling 660-785-2420.

Ask the Naturalist!

Send me your questions: Amanda.Moore@mdc.mo.gov

I've had a lot of questions about roly-polies lately, so here's some cool info on them:

- They're actually crustaceans, related to crabs, crayfish, and shrimp.
- They belong to a group of isopods called woodlice. Don't let the term lice confuse you, though—these critters don't bite!
- Pill bug and roly-poly are terms usually used for woodlice that can roll into a ball, while sow bug is more common for those that can't roll up. There are many other common names for woodlice, including slater, potato bug, and armadillo bug.
- The female has a brood pouch where she carries her eggs. If you find a woodlouse with a white object attached to its underside, you are probably looking at a mama!

KID'S CORNER

Fun and Games, Oh Yeah!

Optional Activity:

Create a photographic nature journal. Each day take a picture of something natural. Record the location, date, time, and weather for each picture. Tell what is in the picture and why it is interesting to you.

I would love to see your results! You are welcome to share your journal at any of our programs.

Note: If you don't have a camera to use, you can still create a journal! Just write about or draw the things you find and record the same information you would for a photographic journal.

Junior and Preschool Conservationists

The following children completed their Guidebooks:

Preschool

Treasure Janes-March 28

Sarah Carpenter-April 2

Noelle Carpenter-April 2

Junior

Ojuanna Smith-March 28

Slade Janes-March 28

Mitchell Carpenter-April 2

Jayden Carpenter-April 2

Color me!



July 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4 Closed Independence Day	5	6	7
8	9	10 Young raccoons leave dens	11	12	13	14 Goldfinches being nesting
15	16 Listen for dog-day cicadas	17	18	19	20	21 Listen for katydids singing
22 May apple fruit ripens and drops	23	24	25	26 Blazing star blooming	27	28
29	30	31				

August 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5	6 Knee High Naturalists	7	8 Creature Feature	9 Baby bats begin flying	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20 Knee High Naturalists	21	22 Creature Feature	23	24	25 Conservation Keepers
26	27	28 Elderberries ripening	29	30 Watch for deer rubs	31	

September 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3 Closed Labor Day	4	5 Creature Feature	6	7 Monarch migration starting	8
9	10	11 Nighthawk migration	12	13	14	15 Hazelnuts ripening
16	17 Knee High Naturalists	18	19	20 Listen for migrating birds	21	22 Conservation Keepers
23	24	25 Persimmons ripening	26 Creature Feature	27	28 Snakes begin winter dormancy	29
30						



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 Kirksville, MO 63501